



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **White House recognizes local coalition for anti-meth efforts**

**Coalition seeks to raise awareness about dangers of meth use**

U.S. Drug Czar John Walters sent a staff member to visit Scottsdale today to meet with local anti-meth coalition leaders and recognize them for their efforts.

Walters said, "National Methamphetamine Awareness Day provides an opportunity to thank the prevention, treatment, and law enforcement professionals who are making a difference in communities like Scottsdale, Arizona, and should serve as a catalyst for all Americans to get involved in the effort to further reduce methamphetamine use."

Paul Skoczylas, with the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy, visited today's meeting of the Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine.

A certificate commending the coalition's meth prevention and education efforts was presented to steering committee members, along with a copy of the presidential proclamation declaring Nov. 30, 2006, National Methamphetamine Awareness Day.

The coalition is a local effort to coordinate a community-based response to the methamphetamine problem. Last fall, the Scottsdale City Council invited other northeast valley communities to participate, including Carefree, Cave Creek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley and the Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

The coalition currently has 65 members representing a variety of sectors of the community including treatment, prevention, law enforcement, education and local government. Residents are also invited to attend meetings.

The Coalition's next meeting is 9 a.m. Dec. 14 at the Paiute Neighborhood Center located at 6535 E. Osborn Road in Scottsdale.

Sgt. Jay Buckler of the Scottsdale Police Department will be the featured speaker on Dec. 14. Buckler serves on the Scottsdale/Drug Enforcement Administration Joint Task Force, a unit that was recently recognized with the DEA's Administrator's Award. The award is given annually to only one of the DEA's 400 drug enforcement groups for outstanding achievement.

For more information on the Coalition and the impacts of meth use, visit the Web site <http://www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov> and select "Anti-Meth Coalition" in the "Hot Links" section in the bottom left hand corner.